

Election Officials - Frequently Asked Questions

VOTER INFORMATION:

1. Can the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) be used by citizens within the United States?

Yes. Uniformed service members who are absent from their local voting jurisdiction due to their service and their eligible family members who are absent may use the FPCA and FWAB even if they are currently within the United States. All other citizens within the United States should follow traditional State voter registration and absentee ballot request procedures.

2. How can I verify a voter's address?

FVAP is able to look up active duty military members' addresses for election officials. You should submit requests to FVAP via email (vote@fvap.gov) or fax (703-372-0735 / 703-372-0749) and include the name of the requester, the voting jurisdiction, as well as the citizen's full name, month and year of birth and the last four digits of his/her Social Security Number. Once an address is found, FVAP will notify you of any releasable information. FVAP does not have access to information on overseas citizens or eligible family members of military personnel.

3. What if a voter from another State wants to apply for a ballot using an FPCA through our office?

If a UOCAVA voter that resides in another State wants to apply for an FPCA through your office, you can provide the voter with a blank form but should clarify that he/she will need to submit the form and cast a ballot in the voter's home State of residence. Voters who are not clear on this information can visit the www.FVAP.gov website which provides step-by-step instructions on filling out the FPCA for all 55 States and territories.

4. What assistance can we provide the voter that has not received a ballot?

If a voter has requested an absentee ballot but has not received one close to Election Day, the voter can fill out the back-up FWAB. This ballot can be found on the FVAP website under the voter's specific State of voter registration: www.FVAP.gov

5. Who is covered under UOCAVA?

U.S. citizens, 18 years or older, and are an active duty member of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marine, Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Corps, eligible family members (U.S. citizens, 18 years or older) of military personnel or a U.S. Citizen residing outside the United States are covered by UOCAVA.

6. Can a person who was born overseas to US parents, and has never lived in the US still participate in the election process?

Yes, some States allow children of military personnel or U.S. Citizens residing overseas, but who have never resided in the U.S., to claim one of their U.S. citizen parents' legal State of

residence as their own. FVAP has a current list of States that allow these citizens to vote absentee: <http://fvap-stg.dtic.mil/citizen-voter/reside>.

7. What is a "legal voting residence"?

For voting purposes, "legal voting residence" can be the State or territory where the voter last resided prior to entering military service OR the State or territory that the voter claims as legal residence. Even though the voter may no longer maintain formal ties to that residence, the address determines the voter's proper voting jurisdiction. Military personnel and their family members may change their legal residence every time they change permanent duty stations, or they may retain their legal residence without change. This may mean that the family's Uniformed Service member has a different legal voting residence than his/her family members.

8. Can a voter cast a ballot in-person where he/she is stationed?

Military members may vote in the U.S. State or territory where stationed if they change their legal residence to that State or territory, even if they live on a military installation. Those voters are not entitled to the legal protections provided by UOCAVA because they are not absent.

9. How does FVAP provide UOCAVA voters with information on upcoming elections in their States?

FVAP offers electronic *Voter Alerts* that are timely emails that keep local election officials and voters informed about election dates, important deadlines throughout the absentee voting process, changes to State laws that affect how voters may request and cast their ballots, and other crucial absentee voting information.

To receive these *Voter Alerts*, contact FVAP at vote@fvap.gov and request to be added. Please provide your full name in the body of the email message.

PROCESSING FORMS:

10. Should I process FPCAs received after the MOVE Act's 45-day deadline for sending UOCAVA ballots?

Yes. You should process all FPCAs submitted before your State's absentee ballot request deadline for UOCAVA voters and send out a ballot as quickly as possible.

11. Which should I count if a voter submitted both a State absentee ballot and a FWAB?

When both a State absentee ballot and a FWAB are submitted prior to the State ballot-receipt deadline, the State absentee ballot should be counted.

12. Why did a voter write in candidates for State and local offices on the FWAB?

In addition to voting in Federal elections, some States allow UOCAVA voters to use the FWAB to vote in State and local elections. Check your State's guidelines for information on which elections military, their eligible family members and overseas voters may participate.

13. Can the postage indicia be used for non-UOCAVA Ballots?

No.

BALLOT TRANSMISSION:

14. Can the UOCAVA's 45-day deadline be moved from Saturday to Monday?

No. The 45-day deadline for a Tuesday election will fall on a Saturday, but there is no provision in Federal law for that deadline to slip to the next business day, even though that may be allowed in State law.

15. Can the postage-paid indicia be used for international mail?

UOCAVA balloting materials can be sent as free postage paid via First-Class Mail as authorized by 39 USC 3406 by election officials to all UOCAVA citizens. These balloting materials include the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), and State balloting materials, including letters acknowledging registration and State absentee ballots.

NOTE: It is important to remind UOCAVA citizens when returning balloting materials to you, the free postage-paid indicia can only be used if mailing from a U.S. Post Office, the Military Postal Service Agency (APO/FPO), or U.S. Diplomatic Pouch Mail. Materials sent by voters deposited in a foreign mail system or via common carrier (such as FedEx, DHL or UPS) must pay the rate for that service themselves.

16. How can I use the Electronic Transmission Service (ETS)?

FVAP's ETS service enables election officials to transmit and receive election materials via fax to and from UOCAVA citizens at no cost. Election officials fax the materials to FVAP's toll-free fax number and FVAP will fax the election materials to the UOCAVA citizen. FVAP also provides a fax-to-email conversion if the voter does not have a fax machine available.

The contact information for this service is:

ETS Toll-Free Fax Number – 1-800-368-8683

ETS Email Address – ets@fvap.gov

ETS Technical Support: 1-800-966-8683

17. How can I get a ballot to a voter that has an email address that removes PDFs and hyperlinks?

Some governmental email servers remove hyperlinks and attachments. Try getting an alternative email address from the voter as a backup. The Department of Defense has a file transfer service that can be used to save a file securely to someone with a (.mil) or (.gov) email address. Contact FVAP for more information.

18. Does FVAP have any information for processing UOCAVA voting materials including the FPCA and the FWAB forms?

Yes, FVAP offers an on-line Election Official Guided Training course and a Quick Reference Guide for processing FPCA or FWAB forms, and resources for sending UOCAVA Ballots. They can be found on our website here: <http://fvap-stg.dtic.mil/eo>.

19. Which States received a grant from FVAP to improve the voting process for military and overseas citizens?

All information about FVAP's grant program can be found here: <http://fvap-stg.dtic.mil/eo/grants>.

20. When will your next round of grants be?

We do not anticipate additional grants at this time.